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A NEW FISH OF THE GENUS *BREGMACEROS* FROM THE STRAITS OF FLORIDA

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Recently Mr. John C. Armstrong, cooperating with Mr. Leo Burry, incidentally obtained numerous interesting small fishes from various depths of water in the vicinity of the Florida Keys, which he has turned over to the fish collections of the American Museum. The most interesting is a single specimen of *Bregmaceros* from 325 fathoms in the Straits of Florida.

This genus comprises small, deep-water fishes from warm seas, related to the cods. They must be rare or solitary, are uncommon in collections, and the number of valid species is uncertain. Several have been described, and two have been generally recognized, *B. maclellandii* Thompson from the Indo-Pacific and *B. atlanticus* Goode and Bean from the Atlantic. Norman (1930, Discovery report, vol. 2, p. 339) synonymizes these two, but I agree with Parr (1931, Bull. Bingham Oceanogr. Coll., vol. 3, no. 4, p. 49) that they are quite unlike. The latter author recognizes three or four species, and there is a good probability that several are valid. Such being the case, it is advisable to describe isolated unidentifiable specimens (when these are in good condition) until sufficient data have accumulated for a satisfactory revision of the genus.

Our Straits of Florida specimen, by locality, should be *B. atlanticus*, but differs notably therefrom. It is shorter bodied, with a larger eye, the diameter thereof greater than the snout or interorbital, has the lower jaw included, and is of a different color. If any reliance at all can be placed on Goode and Bean's figure of *atlanticus*, our fish is much more like *maclellandii*, notably in the shape of head and more complete separation of the

two posterior dorsals and of the two anal fins. It looks much like the figure of *B. longipes* Garman from off the Pacific coast of Mexico, having a similar habitus and color pattern, but is shorter bodied, with a shorter lower jaw.

***Bregmaceros cayorum*, new species**

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: No. 19539, the American Museum of Natural History, from the Straits of Florida, "west of Cay Sal," in 325 fathoms of water, July 12, 1949, collected by Leo Burry.

Length to base of caudal, 46 mm. Depth in this length, 6.6; head, 5.8; produced ventrals, 1.7. Eye in head, $3.2\frac{1}{2}$; inter-orbital, 4; snout (equals two-thirds of eye), 4.7; maxillary, 2; greatest width (head and body), 2; ray of first dorsal, 0.6; longest rays of second dorsal and first anal, 0.8; of third dorsal and second anal, 2.

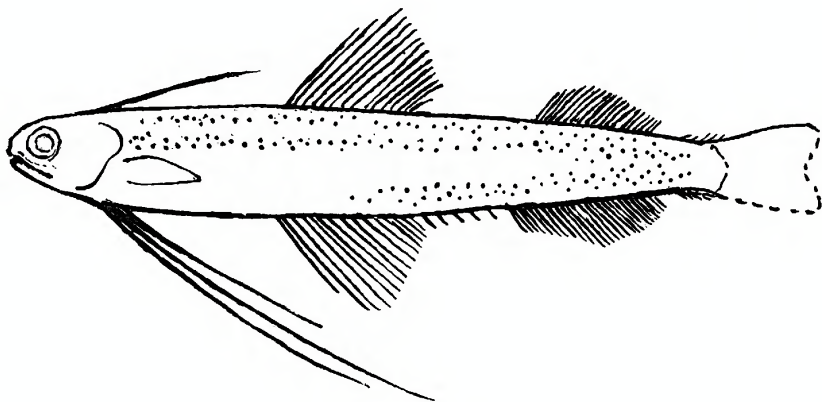


FIG. 1. *Bregmaceros cayorum*, type. Standard length, 46 mm.

A few short fin rays present between the two anals; none found between second and third dorsal. Fin rays fragile and difficult, their counts and scale count subject to some error: dorsal, 1-15-19; anal, 15+5+ upward of 25. Scales, upward of 70.

Mouth oblique, lower jaw appreciably shorter than upper, below a downwardly rounding, slightly projecting snout. Maxillary not quite to under hind border of eye. Body well compressed.

First dorsal, a filamentous ray at the nape, when depressed, about to the origin of the second; ventrals extend to well beyond the base of the first anal, slightly beyond its longest rays, when both fins are depressed. Caudal small, broken, was probably slightly concave. Origins of second dorsal and first anal and axils of third dorsal and second anal approximately opposed; origin of second anal appreciably before that of third dorsal.

Ground color pale, tinged with yellowish except on head and lower parts before vent; speckled with dark along back and upper sides and posteriorly; one or two rows of specks forward on lower side to below the second dorsal, leaving an immaculate band between them and those above. Fins all pale.

We have for comparison a specimen of *B. japonicus* from Japan (Toyama-Ken, Shozaku Yoshizawa; Jordan Collection, 1922; A.M.N.H. No. 12991). Though its body and fins are darker, perhaps due to preservative, it shows a dark specking similar to that of *cayorum* and *longipes*, and it is somewhat shorter bodied than *japonicus* (Tanaka, 1908, Annot. Zool. Japonica, vol. 7, pt. 1, p. 42, fig.). But it is so like the figure of that fish that I have little hesitation in identifying it therewith. It resembles *atlanticus* more than any other named *Bregmaceros* I have found figured, but not enough for me to concur with Tanaka in making it a race of that species.

Compared with *cayorum* it is longer bodied, with a relatively smaller head, head and body less elevated and compressed; jaws equal; eye relatively smaller, snout longer, interorbital wider. Some comparable measurements are: length to base of caudal, 48 mm.; depth in this length, 7.5; head, 6.5; eye and snout, which are equal, in head, 4.4; interorbital, 3.5; greatest width, 2.

The figure of *B. cayorum* was kindly drawn by Katherine G. Morton from the author's rough diagram.

